CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

Sub C1

1. A method for preventing or delaying catheter-based revascularization in patients suffering from coronary artery disease and in need of such treatment comprising administering a cholesterol lowering agent in an amount effective to cause an aggressive lowering of LDL cholesterol.

2. A method according to Claim 1 wherein the cholesterol lowering agent is an HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor.

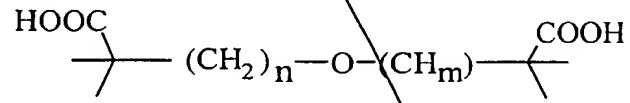
3. A method according to Claim 2 wherein the HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor is selected from atorvastatin, mevastatin, cerivastatin, simvastatin, fluvastatin, dalvastatin, pravastatin, and lovastatin, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

4. The method according to Claim 3 wherein the HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor administered is atorvastatin, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

5. The method according to Claim 4 wherein the amount of atorvastatin administered is from about 50 mg/day to about 150 mg/day.

6. The method according to Claim 5 wherein atorvastatin is administered at a dose of about 80 mg/day.

7. A method according to Claim 1 wherein the cholesterol lowering agent is a carboxyalkyl ether of the formula



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

8. The method according to Claim 7 wherein the cholesterol lowering agent administered is 6,6′-oxybis-(2,2-dimethylhexanoic acid), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

9. A method according to Claim1 wherein the cholesterol lowering agent is selected from a fibrate.

10. The method according to Claim 9 wherein the cholesterol lowering agent is selected from clofibrate, gemfibrozil, fenofibrate, ciprofibrate, and benafibrate.